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Country programmes and related matters

Extensions of country programmes
Note of the Administrator

Summary

The present note contains information on the first one-year extensions of the second country cooperation frameworks (CCFs) for Bhutan, Costa Rica, Haiti, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malawi, Nepal, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Togo, and Trinidad and Tobago; and the second one-year extensions of the country programmes for the Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

In accordance with established procedures, the Administrator approves the first one-year extension of CCFs, while requests for extension into a second-year or two-year extensions are submitted to the Board for approval.

Elements of a decision

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the first extensions of the CCFs for Bhutan, Costa Rica, Haiti, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malawi, Nepal, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Togo, and Trinidad and Tobago for a period of one year, from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007, as reported in table 1.

The Executive Board may wish to approve the second one-year extensions of the country programmes for the Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia from 1 January to 31 December 2007, as reported in table 2.

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Table 1. Extensions of CCFs approved by the Administrator since September 2005

Country	Original CCF period	Year(s) proposed for new extension	Reason and explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Bhutan	2002-2006	2007			The Government of Bhutan has requested the postponement of its UNDAF by one year to 2008. The main reason for postponement was the additional time required for the Government to establish a new institutional structure and procedures for national planning. The extension will also enhance harmonization of the UNDAF cycle with the national planning cycle.
Costa Rica	2002-2006	2007	To align the UNDP programming period with the agreed United Nations programming cycle, scheduled to start in January 2008.		
Haiti	2002-2006	2007		Political upheaval gave way to the new transitional Government, in charge since 2004. The presidential elections held on 7 February 2006 resulted in the election of Mr. René García Préval as President. The second round of legislative elections in April will provide for the setting up of the National Assembly and Senate and installation of the new President in May 2006. In the meantime, the transitional Government has released a draft interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, (I-PRSP) which will be replaced by a national poverty reduction strategy that should be available by the end of 2007. The extension will support the synchronization of the United Nations programming cycle with national planning processes and alignment of the UNDAF, as well as preparation of the national Poverty Reduction Strategy from January 2008 onwards.	
Kuwait	2002-2006	2007		National elections are scheduled for the first half of 2007. Following the elections, the new Government will formulate and announce its development action plan by mid-2007. Postponing the beginning of the next CCF until early 2008 will allow UNDP to ensure synergy and harmonization with the government plan.	

Lebanon	2002-2006	2007		The unforeseen events that engulfed Lebanon in the wake of the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and the successive changes of Government that ensued, coupled with instability and volatile security, have led to inevitable delays in the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and government engagement in the CCA/UNDAF preparation processes, including delays in producing the results and analyses of various surveys upon which United Nations five-year strategic planning of depends.	
Malawi	2002-2006	2007	The final draft of the new PRSP document, the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, was finalized in December 2005. The UNCT wishes to ensure full synchronization of United Nations country programming with government planning processes in line with the recent guidance from the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), following the Paris High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. The UNCT has also been requested by the Government to support a Millennium Development Goals (MDG) needs assessment of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy to ensure that it is an MDG-based document with localized, costed strategies for achieving the MDGs.		
Nepal	2002-2006	2007		The primary reason for the postponement of the CCA and UNDAF process in 2005 was the declaration of the state of emergency by the Government of Nepal on 1 February 2005, following the royal takeover. The state of emergency suspended all civil and political liberties, including allowing the United Nations system to continue dialogue and discussion on development issues with the Government. The state of emergency led to an intensification of the conflict in rural areas of the country, making it difficult for the United Nations system to continue with its normal programmes in the country. As a result, the UNCT, in consultation with UNDGO, decided to postpone the CCA and UNDAF processes by one year. In the light of the escalation in the conflict, and to ensure that its programmes remain relevant, strategic, and responsive, UNDP undertook a comprehensive programme review mid-2005.	

				Based on the recommendations, the country office initiated actions for consolidation of the project/programme portfolio to increase management effectiveness, set up a pilot programme office in the field, boost programme support capacity in monitoring and evaluation to monitor the impact of interventions on the affected population, adopt measures to implement standard security procedures and increase operational efficiency through UNDP support to the NEX modality. These measures will continue into the extended period of the CCF.	
Nicaragua	2002-2006	2007	To align the UNDP programming period with the agreed United Nations programming cycle, scheduled to start in January 2008, and take into account the possibility of a new government assuming power in January 2007, following presidential elections in November 2006.		
Rwanda	2002-2006	2007	To align the UNDP programming period with the agreed United Nations programming cycle, scheduled to start in January 2008. The PRSP II is planned to be finalized in the first quarter of 2007. As a result, the new UNDAF will cover the period 2008-2012. Furthermore, the extension of the current programme will allow UNDP country office to pursue its activities in promoting and consolidating good governance and economic management for poverty eradication.		
Sri Lanka	2002-2006	2007			In the wake of the December 2004 tsunami, UNCT efforts during 2005 were focused on coordinating the tsunami response and developing a United Nations transition strategy to support implementation of the government reconstruction plan. Given November 2005 the change in Government following presidential elections and the likelihood that the tsunami agenda would continue to predominate in 2006-2007, the UNCT agreed that a one-year extension of the current UNDAF would provide an opportunity to base the new UNDAF on the new strategies of the Government and the development plans now in preparation. The appropriateness extending the current CCF to 2007 was agreed with government counterparts during the UNDP annual review meeting in August 2005.

Togo	2002-2006	2007		The death of President Eyadema Gnassingbe has led to a number of constitutional changes and the appointment of his son as President of the country. The international community roundly condemned the changes and called insistently for a return to the constitutional order. During demonstrations organized by the opposition political parties and the ruling party before, during and after 24 April 2005, the presidential elections process resulted in to several casualties and seriously wounded victims. Thousands of people left the country for Benin and Ghana or returned to their regions of origin for security reasons. As a consequence, UNCT efforts were geared towards staff security and humanitarian support to internally displaced persons. The CCA/UNDAF process launched at the end of December 2005 was halted, and a decision to extend the current programming cycle was taken by the Resident Representative on behalf of the UNCT, and agreed by the Regional Bureau.	
Trinidad and Tobago	2002-2006	2007			The country has attained net contributor status, and the country office is negotiating with the Government on the type and size of office that would be required to meet its future needs. These discussions will underpin the articulation of the next CCF.

Table 2. Extensions of CCFs for which Executive Board approval is sought

Country	Years covered by original CCF	Year(s) covered by extension already approved	Year(s) proposed for new extension	Extension		Reason and explanation		
				2nd one-year	Two-year	United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Other
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2003-2005	2006	2007	-		The Executive Committee and UNCT-wide related organizations have agreed to harmonize their programme cycle as of January 2007 taking into consideration that: (a) the future Government that will result from the 2006 elections marking the end of the transition will set priorities and flesh out directions to advance a new development agenda; (b) The PRSP, which provides a framework for the CCA/UNDAF, is an ongoing process and is not expected to be completed before the end of the year; and (c) the framework of the integrated mission, launched in January 2005, adds a new strategic and operational dimension that needs to be nurtured before its impact becomes tangible. The extension of the current programme will allow the UNDP country office to pursue activities in the three core areas of its operational mandate: achieving the MDGs and reducing human poverty; fostering democratic governance; and supporting crisis prevention and recovery.		
Liberia	2003-2005	2006	2007	-		To align the UNDP programming period with the agreed United Nations programming cycle, scheduled to start in January 2008.	Within the framework of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on 18 August 2003, Presidential elections were held in October and November 2005 and the elected Government was inaugurated on 16 January 2006. Activities initiated during the transition period (2004-2005) need to be completed, while consultations with the new Government are being held with a view to designing strategies and programmes for pursuing its priorities, which focus on security, economic revitalization, governance and restoration of basic services and infrastructure. The UNDP role in addressing the priorities needs to be clarified. The extension will allow for completion of the MYFF 2004-2007 cycle and facilitate harmonization of programme cycles for the UNDG.	